

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BILBAO 00009 301206Z

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ACTION COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 516

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SP

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: CENTRAL NUCLEAR DE SANTILLAN

REF: 75 STATE 294198, 76 STATE 19634

BILBAO 254 SENT FROM THIS POST DECEMBER 23, 1975 IN ANSWER TO
STATE 294198 REPEATED AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE 1) ELECTRA DE VIESGO MANAGING DIRECTOR MANUEL CORTINES
(POINT OF CONTACT MENTIONED REPAIR) STATES PREFERRED SOURCE
FOR STEAM SUPPLY SYSTEM IS U.S. BUT FINANCIAL TERMS MUST MEET
EUROPEAN COMPETITION. HE MENTIONED EXAMPLE OF ABOUT SIX
MONTHS AGO WHEN WESTINGHOUSE LOST OUT TO KRAFT WERK UNION
(COMBINATION AEG AND SIEMENS) INBIDDING FOR UNION ELECTICX
CENTRAL DE TRILLO NUCLEAR PROJECT. 2) CORTINES SAID FUEL
FABRICATION WILL INITIALLY BE U.S. SOURCE BUT THAT EVENTUALLY,
PERHAPS IN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, THERE WILL BE SPANISH CAPABILITY
PROVIDED BY EMPRESA NACIONAL DEL URANIO (ENUSA), 60 PERCENT
OWNED BY INI WITH GROUP OF PRIVATE ELECTRIC UTILITIES HAVING
REMAINING 40 PERCENT EQUITY.

3) CENTRAL NUCLEAR DE SANTILLAN, ALTHOUGH 100 PERCENT CERTAIN
OF EVENTUAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL ACCORDING TO CORTINES,
CONTINUES TO AWAIT RECEIPT OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL BY THE
JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR (SPANISH EQUIVALENT OF U.S. ATOMIC
ENERGY COMMISSION). ALTHOUGH THIS COULD COME WITHIN THREE
MONTHS, ADDITIONAL DELAYS POSSIBLE DEPENDING UPON ORDER
SEQUENCE TO BE ASSIGNED SEVERAL PENDING NUCLEAR PROJECTS
BY GOVERNMENT.

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4) CORTINES INDICATED DELAY MAY BE PARTIALLY DUE TO REDUCED

DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY IN SPAIN COMPARED TO FORECASTS.
DROP IN ELECTRICITY DEMAND, ACCORDING TO CORTINES, WILL
CAUSE SUSPENSION OF SOME OF THE ELECTRIC POWER INSTALLATIONS
CONTEMPLATED DURING 1975-1985 PERIOD UNDER DECREE
175/1975 OF FEBRUARY 13, 1975. THIS DECREE PROVIDED PREPARATION
OF A PROGRAM OF COORDINATED ACTION OF ALL UTILITY COMPANIES
WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY SIGNED BY GOVERNMENT AND COMPANIES
ON OCTOBER 22. UNQUOTE.
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